City of Barrie
Report of the Youth Council

Monday, March 02, 2026 at 05:30 PM
For consideration by the Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee

Present:
Councillor, J. Harris
Councillor, A. Courser
A. Onukwuba
H. Burak
K. Maloney-Aegerter
Y. Kamara
T. Ogunnaike

Absent:
Councillor, S. Morales
F. Jonathan
K. Gallant
L. R. Sudsbury
M. Bentley
M. Fisher
N. Donnelly
T. Olukoya
A. Johnson

Staff:
Legislative Coordinator, C. Payne
Landscape Architectural Planner, W. Loevenmark
Recreation Programmer - Community Programs, P. Kovacs

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor, J. Harris at 5:33 p.m.

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Presentation by Development Services regarding Parks Strategic Plan Community Engagement

W. Loevenmark, Landscape Architectural Planner, provided an overview of the Parks Strategic Plan Community Engagement process and advised that Development Services are looking for feedback from a youth perspective regarding the future of Barrie's parks. She inquired what youth and teens value in terms of

parks and public spaces and encouraged the Committee to consider both old parks needing rehabilitation and any new parks that would be constructed.

The Committee provided feedback on the following:

- More youth and teen-focused areas in parks;
- An equipment rental initiative where recreation equipment (basketballs, soccer balls, etc.) is available on-site for rent;
- More sheltered gathering spaces (e.g. pavillions) catered towards youth;
- Cooling and/or misting stations;
- Music-focused features such as public pianos and band shells;
- Other activities parks could offer such as tree-top trekking and ziplining, BMX tracks, disc golf courses, etc.;
- Ensuring there are sufficient wooded/naturalized areas within parks;
- More and varied dedicated seating areas;
- An outdoor gym/fitness area; and
- Transportation considerations such as bike racks/storage.

Ms. Loevenmark advised that an online survey will be available until March 22, 2026 for any further comments.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Youth Event Planning

The Committee discussed further planning and venue booking for the Youth Event, determining details regarding timing, music and attendance. Members also discussed safety and transportation considerations, noting the importance of access for police, fire, and ambulance. The scope of the event was discussed with Members agreeing on drop-in style. The Committee also discussed the possibility of sending out a save-the-date or similar document to promote the event.

The Youth Council approved an expenditure of $1,690.12 + HST for venue rental costs.

4. REFERRED ITEMS

Nil.

5. REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS TO COMMITTEE

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN